A Grand Instrumental Music-cum-Percussion Ensemble

presented by

Guru T. S. Nandakumar & Smt. Mangalam Muthuswamy & disciples

AMBALAPUZHA T. S. NANDAKUMAR

At a time when the drums of the world are uniting to form a fusion rhythm by absorbing the Laya cultures of the world over, our own Avanaddha Vadyas (Percussion instruments) grouped as "pakka" and "upa pakka" vadyas (major and minor instruments) have been clamoring for recognition, some perhaps, even struggling to survive. And ensembling them and taking them to classical heights is a Herculean task requiring more than a creative mind and perceptive perseverance.

It is heartening to note that a young Guru of Mumbai, Ambalapuzha T. S. Nandakumar has not only dared where angels feared to tread but also accomplished success in this field.

Hailing from a family of musicians who have specialized in Nagaswaram, T. S. Nandakumar imbibed Sruti and Laya under the great Guru Kaithavana Madhava Das and today after years he stands as one of renowned Mridangists and a teacher par excellence.

T. S. Nandakumar is one of the few teacher-performers who have dedicated themselves to their profession with a missionary zeal and who have blazed to glory too. He leaves no instruments untapped - Mridangam, Ghatam, Kanjira, Morsing, Tavil, dholak, Konnakkol - and gears each one of these students in course of time on to different instruments.

The Vadya Laya Vrinda, the percussion ensemble has been formed and the three cassettes of "Jewels of Rhythm" this group has brought out speak for this dynamic and versatile teacher. And this group is mostly drawn from the teenaged talents.

With his innovation and dedication to Mridangam Shri Nandakumar has brought out the latent talents in the students into a concrete form of "ENSEMBLE OF PERCUSSIVE ARTS". The